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Letter dated 5 February 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter addressed to you by Ismail Cem, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, concerning the Turkish Government's desire to organize the Second World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, together with the World Youth Forum and the World Youth Festival, in Turkey (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of this letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the thirty-seventh session of the Commission for Social Development under an appropriate agenda item.

(*Signed*) Volkan **Vural**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 1 February 1999 from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the proceedings of the first World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth held in August 1998 in Lisbon, Portugal.

This Conference has been a very significant initiative on the eve of the twenty-first century, which we all cherish as a century of endeavours for global and rapid advancement in technology, social cohesion and economic welfare.

I am confident that these endeavours require hard work, knowledge, participation, dedication and concerted efforts. It is with these valuable assets that we can overcome the challenges of the next century and the next millennium.

The Lisbon Conference and the Declaration adopted thereat has shown the political desire and commitment of our Governments to improve the status of youth in all related areas of national youth policies, participation, development, peace, education, employment, health care and prevention of drug abuse.

We sincerely believe that the Declaration adopted at the conclusion of this Conference has signalled the beginning of an important new era for international cooperation in youth-related matters. We believe, therefore, that a result-oriented follow-up process has to be institutionalized. I am equally confident that the national Governments, regional organizations, the United Nations and the non-governmental organizations that have contributed to the drafting of the Lisbon Declaration will also be willing to cooperate in its follow-up.

As you will no doubt recall, young people played an important role during the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held in Istanbul, Turkey, in June 1996. They displayed their vision, energy, creativity and substantial inputs in the formulation of the Habitat Agenda, in which several items and paragraphs refer to youth and developmental issues.

Youth organizations in Turkey have sustained and further strengthened their activities and today they function as the global secretariat of the Youth for Habitat International Network to foster and coordinate youth contributions to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and Agenda 21. In this connection, this Network has successfully organized several meetings in Turkey, which focused on issues ranging from education to health care, the environment, vocational training and human rights.

Taking into consideration the wish expressed by several distinguished delegates to see the Lisbon Conference and the Youth Forum institutionalized, and inspired also by the successes of the Habitat II Conference in Istanbul, as well as the Lisbon and Braga meetings, I have the honour and the privilege to confirm my Government's desire to organize the Second World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, together with the World Youth Forum and the World Youth Festival, in Turkey.

I kindly request, therefore, your good offices to facilitate the ensuing procedure, which requires the incorporation of a relevant paragraph into the next Economic and Social Council resolution on the follow-up to the first World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth and the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, to be further supported by the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, under your able guidance.

(*Signed*) Ismail **Cem**